

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DPW-01

NEA-09 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 /080 W

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R 041259Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9614

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3944

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, OREP, US

SUBJ: LON NOL'S STATEMENT TO CODEL

REF: A) PHNOM PENH 3883

B) PHNOM PENH 3884

C) PHNOM PENH 3767

1. IN THE COURSE OF AMARCH 4 CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER
TO INFORM HIM ABOUT THE NEW TITLE II RICE PROGRAM FOR CAMBODIA,
WE DISCUSSED THE WORLDWIDE PUBLICITY ACCORDED TO THE ALLEGED
EXPRESSION BY THE MARSHAL OF HIS WILLINGNESS
TO STEP DOWN IN ORDER TO HELP BRING ABOUT PEACE.

2. LONG BORET, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING WITH THE
CODEL (REFTEL C), SAID THAT, OF COURSE, THIS WAS NOT
EXACTLY WHAT THE MARSHAL HAD SAID IN SO MANY WORDS. HE
ADDED THAT WHAT THE MARSHAL HAD ACTUALLY SAID IN KHMER
HAD BEEN A BIT STRONGER THAN WHAT UM SIM HAD TRANSLATED
IN ENGLISH.

3. THE KEY SENTENCE IS THE THIRD ONE IN THE FIFTH
PARAGRAPH OF THE MARSHAL'S REMARKS (REFTEL C)
WHICH READS: "I WAS BROUGHT TO THIS HIGH OFFICE BY
THE INSTITUTIONALIZED ORGANIZATION, BUT FOR THE PEACE
OF MY COUNTRY I WOULD DO WHATEVER IS POSSIBLE AND
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NECESSARY SO THAT PEACE AND THE WELFARE OF MY PEOPLE

CAN BE ACHIEVED." ACCORDING TO LONG BORET, WHAT THE MARSHAL ACTUALLY SAID IN KHMER WAS THAT HE WOULD MAKE WHATEVER SACRIFICE MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE PEACE, AND THE KHMER WORD FOR SACRIFICE IN THIS CONTEXT IS A FORCEFUL WORD WHICH COULD BE TAKEN TO MEAN A WILLINGNESS TO STEP DOWN. LONG BORET THOUGHT UM SIM HAD MISSED THE WORD "SACRIFICE".

4. IN LIGHT OF THE DEGREE OF PUBLICITY THE MARSHAL'S REMARKS HAVE RECEIVED, I THINK THIS FOOTNOTE IS OF INTEREST IN REINFORCING THE INTERPRETATION OF THE MARSHAL'S MEANING WHICH IS NOW GAINING WIDER ACCEPTANCE.
DEAN

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NNN

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